



DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



November 22, 2005

Dungeness Crab Season Delay Notification

Fish and Game Code (FGC) Section 8276.2 (c) provides the Director with the authority to delay the December 1 season opening, due to soft-shell or poor quality crab conditions, in Fish and Game Districts 6, 7, 8 & 9 (Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties) for a minimum of 15 days.

Recent test results indicate the crabs will not be ready for harvest on December 1, 2005. Based on these data and the interest in cooperatively managing the interstate Dungeness crab fishery, I am delaying the opening of Dungeness crab season in northern California (Districts 6, 7, 8 & 9) until 12:01 am December 16, 2005.

Pursuant to FGC Section 8276.3 (b), the opening date in Districts 6, 7, 8 and 9 shall be preceded by a 36-hour gear setting period.

During the next few weeks the Department and the states of Oregon and Washington will be working together to determine if the crab season opening date will need to be delayed further. As provided in FGC Section 8276.3 no vessel may take or land crab within Districts 6, 7, 8 & 9 during the closure period.

L. Ryan Broddrick
Director